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Suggestions For Planting Pineapple Pears In South Georgia Sections

(By J. W. Firor, Horticulturist, A., B. & A. Ry. Co. Montezuma, Ga.)

Preparation of Soil. Flat Break the soil before planting, using a two-horse turning plow or larger plow. If there is not enough time to break the entire area, lay off the field as suggested later on and then flat break a strip, six or seven feet wide, along the tree rows. As soon as the soil is broken use disc or other harrow for smoothing.

Laying off the Orchard. 40 feet apart both ways, is considered the best distance for spacing Pineapple pears in South Georgia sections. Start on side of field which has the longest and the straightest edge. Run a row with a small plow 20 feet from the side of the field. This row should be as straight as it is possible to make it with ordinary tools at hand. The use of poles with white cloth tied on end, as guides to the plow hand, is recommended. These poles can be used as measuring sticks and therefore should be in some unit of 40 feet. As the first row is started measure off 40 feet from the starting point and at right angles to same, place pole at this point for guide in returning and laying off next row. As the poles are reached do likewise all the way across the field. Run rows at intervals of 40 feet until entire field is laid off. Then run cross rows at intervals of 40 feet so that these cross rows will be at right angle to this main rows. The points of intersection will be the places for planting the trees. Anyone wishing to plant trees on the triangle method should write to J. W. Firor, Horticulturist, A., B. & A. Ry. Company, Montezuma, Ga., for full particulars.

Opening Holes. By following the rows used in marking off the field with a large "middle-buster" or turning plow a great deal of hand work can be saved. The holes can then be completed with a small amount of labor, by the use of a shovel. This can best be done just before planting the trees.

There is no advantage in using dynamite to blast holes.

Fertilizer. The use of 3 to 4 pounds of high grade fertilizer per tree is recommended, at planting time. The main ingredients needed by the young pear tree are phosphoric acid and nitrogen (Ammonia.) The Phosphoric acid can be obtained from Acid Phosphate or bone meal; the nitrogen, from cotton seed meal, blood, tankage, sulphate of ammonia or nitrate of soda. The formula of mixed goods should be approximately 8 per cent phosphoric acid, 4

per cent nitrogen and 2 per cent potash. Two thirds of the nitrogen should be from an organic source, as cotton seed meal, blood and tankage; one third from an inorganic source as sulphate of ammonia and nitrate of soda. Make the application as the trees are planted.

Planting the tree. Take a bunch of trees and cut off all the broken roots and cut back the other roots three to four inches. As the bunch of trees are carried to the field rap a damp sack around the roots so as to protect from the wind and sun. Do not drop the trees ahead of the planters. Dig out the holes about two inches deeper than necessary to plant the trees one inch deeper than they grew in the nursery. Fill the bottom of the hole with top soil and tramp firmly. Place the trees in proper line. Shovel a few shovels full of soil around the roots working it with the hand under any concealed spaces, then tramp firmly, continue shoveling in top soil and tramping until the hole is filled to the level of the surrounding soil. As the soil is filled in the hole scatter the fertilizer to be used around the edges of the hole, mixing it well with the soil and keeping it away from the trunk of the tree. Do not throw the fertilizer at the bottom of the hole or throw it in one lump near the trunk.

Protection from Rabbits, etc. Make a mixture using the formula: 1 bushel of lime; 15 pounds of sulphur; 10 pounds of salt; 50 gallons of water. Slack the lime slowly mixing in the sulphur as it is slacking, add the salt and stir well. Then add the rest of the water. Paint the trees with this mixture. It will repel rabbits, rats and mice.

Cultivation and Cropping. The trees should be cultivated throughout the spring and early summer. Cotton is a good crop to plant the first three or four years because it requires cultivation during this period and does not shade the trees. Any crop which does not shade the trees and which requires cultivation is good. Do not sow oats or other small grains in the pear orchard during the first three or four years. Do not pasture the pear orchard. Whatever crop used needs to be well fertilized so as not to deplete the fertility of the land.

No crop should be planted with the tree row but the tree row should be cultivated along with the crop.

Pruning. Do not prune the tops of the trees until all are planted; then use a stick 2½ feet long as a measure and cut all trees to same height.

